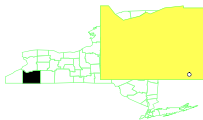


# LITTLE VALLEY NEW YORK

EPA ID# NY0001233634



**EPA REGION 2**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 31**  
Cattaraugus County  
Little Valley

## Site Description

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The Little Valley site is located in a rural, agricultural area between the Village of Little Valley and the City of Salamanca. In 1982, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) detected trichloroethane (TCE) in nearby private wells. A plume of TCE extends approximately 7 miles from the southern end of Little Valley to the northern edge of Salamanca, which is part of the Allegheny Indian Reservation. NYSDEC installed a number of monitoring wells in the area to investigate possible sources of contamination, including a former drum storage area, a private disposal site next to the former drum storage area, an inactive municipal landfill which accepted industrial wastes, and industrial facilities. There are approximately 175 residences and small businesses in the immediate vicinity of the site which use private wells as the sole source of drinking water.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through a combination of federal, state, and municipal actions.

### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

Proposed Date: 10/02/95

Final Date: 06/17/96

## Threats and Contaminants

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Between 1989 and 1995, the CCHD and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) sampled approximately 104 wells in the vicinity of the site. Of the wells that were sampled, 42 had levels of TCE greater than or equal to the NYSDOH drinking water standard of 5.0 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ). While the levels of contaminants may not be significant enough to pose an immediate threat to public health, many of these wells have been contaminated since the early 1980s, presenting the residents with a potential long-term exposure risk. The CCHD issued health advisories to the exposed residents in 1989. Approximately six well owners independently installed granular activated carbon filter systems; others purchased bottled water.



## Cleanup Approach

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The site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focused on providing an alternate water supply for the affected residents, identifying and controlling the source of contamination, and remediating the contaminated ground water.

## Response Action Status

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**Immediate Action:** Based on preliminary investigations, EPA determined that the contaminant levels present at the site did not warrant immediate action while the focused feasibility study was being conducted. Some residents, however, elected to install treatment units on their wells, and others purchased bottled water.



**Entire Site:** A *Focused Feasibility Study for Alternate Water Supply* (FFS), prepared in-house, was completed in July 1996. The purpose of the FFS was to develop, screen, and evaluate various alternatives for an alternative water supply system for the affected and potentially affected residences at the site. Based upon the findings of the FFS, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on September 30, 1996, providing for an alternate water supply. The ROD called for the installation of air stripper treatment units on all affected and potentially affected private wells.

Installation of the air stripper treatment units was completed in August 1997. Subsequently, granular activated carbon units were installed in addition to the air strippers to improve the overall contaminant removal efficiency. Since the air strippers were reaching the end of their useful life and the maintenance requirements associated with these units were likely to increase, and because of the significant reduction in contaminant concentrations in the private wells, it was determined that granular activated carbon units alone would be able to effectively remove the contamination. This determination was documented in an April 2002 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The noted modification were made in 2002 and presently, there are granular activated carbon treatment units installed on 90 private wells at the site.

In September 1996, EPA initiated a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to locate the source(s) of the contamination and to identify and evaluate measures to control or mitigate the source(s). It is anticipated that the RI/FS will be completed in mid-2004.

Five-year reviews are undertaken at sites to ensure that implemented remedies protect public health and the environment and that they function as intended by site decision documents. In May 2002, EPA issued a Five-Year Review report, which concluded that the individual treatment units called for in the Record

of Decision (ROD), as modified by the ESD, are functioning as designed and have addressed the immediate threat to public health. A subsequent ROD will address the final ground water remedy. Since the selection of a final ground water remedy will require a review of the implemented alternate water supply remedy, this ROD will constitute the second five-year review.

**Site Facts:** Following the proposed listing of the site on the National Priorities List in 1995, EPA commenced a search for parties that might be responsible for the contamination.

## Cleanup Progress



**(Immediate Threat Mitigated; Source Identification Studies Underway)**

Based upon results from the periodic sampling of the residential and commercial wells, additional treatment systems were installed. To date, a total of 90 treatment units have been installed at the site. In September 2002, the existing air strippers were removed and replaced with activated carbon treatment units. The dual-phase activated carbon treatment units continue to provide potable water during the performance of the source identification and control RI/FS.

## Site Repositories



Town of Little Valley Municipal Building, 103 Rock City Street, Little Valley, NY 14755

Salamanca Public Library, 155 Wildwood Avenue, Salamanca, New York 14779

EPA Region II Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866

